

Library Events Highlight Authors

by Karen Orr Fritts

Authors from around the state and country are slated to appear at the Mary Livermore Library this year. Kicking off this parade of writers is California native and author **Nina Marie Martínez**. For the first time ever, the Library will celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, from September 15 to October 15, 2007. Ms. Martínez will discuss her book *¡Caramba!: A Tale Told in Turns of the Card*. This wonderful story is a Thelma-and-Louise style adventure of six characters set in contemporary California, near the Mexican border.

The program is presented jointly by the Friends of the Library and the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs. This discussion, with a book signing opportunity, will take place on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the main reading room of the Mary Livermore Library.

The Library continues to celebrate authors this fall with a program and reception featuring **Mike Lassiter**. A native of North Carolina, Mr. Lassiter has authored a book titled, *Our Vanishing Americana: A North Carolina Portrait*. Containing a collection of photographs taken by Mr. Lassiter, the book includes stories about historic storefronts from cities and towns throughout North Carolina. This program is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the main reading room of the Mary Livermore Library.

The Friends of the Library will present **Dr. Melton McLaurin**, Professor Emeritus at UNC Wilmington and author of *The Marines of Montford Point: America's First Black Marines*. Professor McLaurin will discuss his research about the country's first African American Marines. The author or co-author of seven books and numerous articles, Professor McLaurin's research focuses on the history of the American South. The event will be on February 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mary Livermore Library followed by a reception and book signing opportunity.

In conjunction with National Library Week, the annual Friends of the Library benefit is planned for April 11, 2008. The 2008 benefit will feature **Bill Thompson** speaking on "Growing Up in North Carolina." Mr. Thompson writes a newspaper column that appears in several newspapers in both North and South Carolina and has a monthly column in *Our State*. His most current work is *Sweet Tea, Fried Chicken, and Lazy Dogs : Reflections on North Carolina Life*. Mr. Thompson is the President of Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc. The benefit starts at 5:30 p.m. and will include dinner, a silent auction, and a live auction. Tickets are \$50.00 per person.

The Library will celebrate National Library Week, April 14-19, 2008. The book sale will be held on April 14-18, with April 14 reserved for Friends of the Library members. The general membership meeting, followed by the Poetry/Short Prose/Campus Authors Program, will be held April 16, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

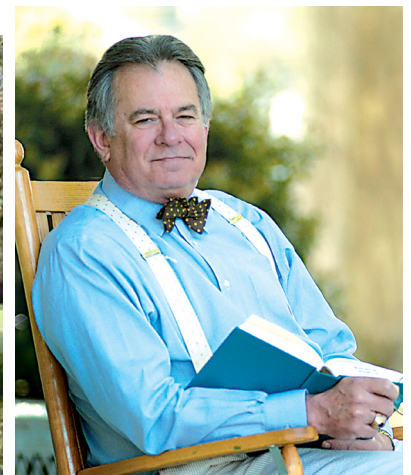
The latest information on library events can be found on the Library's website at www.uncp.edu/library/friends/events.html.



Mike Lassiter
Photo by Kate Howe



Dr. Melton McLaurin
Photo provided by author



Bill Thompson
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